

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, September 14, 2009**

**Members Present:** Tia Blassingame, Alderman Frances Clark, Dorreth Cole, Jennifer Delmonico, Douglas Hausladen, Robert Parker, Perkins Foss, Aleta Staton. **Staff Present:** Barbara Lamb, Kim Futrell. **Members Absent:** Su-Lin Carbonelli, Gabriela Campos-Matteson, Suzette Franco-Camacho, William Denby, Randi Rubin Rodriguez, Dean Sakamoto, Janna Wagner.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by B. Parker at 5:55 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

J. Delmonico called for a motion to approve the August 2009 minutes. Motion by B. Parker. Seconded by D. Hausladen. Minutes unanimously approved.

**III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

B. Lamb updated the commission on New Haven Sister Cities and various other DCA projects.

Public Art: DCA in collaboration with the New Haven Free Public Library dedicated the "READ" mural in front of the Stetson Library. Many community members came out in support of the artwork which highlights the contributions of numerous successful individuals from the Dixwell neighborhood.

DCA will host a celebration of 20 Years of Public Art in New Haven on Saturday, October 3 from 6-9pm. The event will also be a format to unveil a new youth arts program "City Youth Stewards" that engages area youth in public art research. The event will be held at 45 Church Street (corner of Church & Crown Sts).

Storefronts for Artists: DCA has submitted a proposal for the development of a "Storefront for Artists" program which would pair vacant storefronts with working artists/arts organizations. The goal of the program is to activate vacant storefronts artists that would engage the surrounding community.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Strategic Planning: DCA is working with AMS to present a series of community discussions over the next several weeks in five neighborhoods (Dixwell, Hill, Fair Haven, Westville and Downtown) about the future role and work plans for Cultural Affairs. Community partners such as Arte, Inc., Westville Village Renaissance Alliance, the Arts Council and Hill Development Corporation along with the Stetson and Wilson branch libraries have been identified to assist with spreading the word. B. Lamb encouraged all commissioners to consider participating at one of the sessions and to forward the information to their contact lists the ensure the largest turnout possible.

Public Art Policy: DCA has developed guidelines as it relates to Public Art within the city. The guidelines incorporate policies for deaccession, purchase and maintenance of art works. Lamb was asked to run the Guidelines by Corporation Counsel. Members agreed to review the guidelines for vote in the October meeting.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Communications Policy: Members held a preliminary discussion on the best method to communicate with the Mayor and other boards and commissions as it relates to the relevance of the arts on communities. In particular, Lamb indicated that she had received a letter from the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan iterating the importance of arts education to becoming a well rounded individual as well as the other benefits relating to problems solving, attention span, motivation, language development, etc. Lamb had questioned whether forwarding this onto the Superintendent of Schools – who no doubt received through his own sources – was appropriate or whether it was more appropriate for communication to come directly from the Commission to the Board of Education. Members agreed to revisit the topic in the October meeting.

Other: D. Hausladen suggested membership evaluate how the city markets its arts related industries to visitors.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 (due to Columbus Day) AT 5:45 PM AT CITY HALL.**